

I would encourage the FCC to refrain from passing the current FCC NPRM proposal 05-235, which would eliminate the Morse Code requirement for all license classes. I would encourage the FCC rule makers to take into consideration the alternate and more moderate proposal of the Amateur Radio Relay League which would retain a CW requirement for the Extra Class Amateur License.

As an Amateur who holds an Extra Class License, I was taught at an early age that difficult challenges in life were usually overcome by hard work. Achieving the highest level of success at anything usually involves significant effort.

As a 12 year in 1976, I realized that I must learn the Morse Code and pass a 5 WPM code test in order to achieve the minimal level of knowledge which the FCC required at the time to be a licensed amateur. Once licensed, I not only improved my ability to communicate using CW but I gained an appreciation and knowledge of good operating techniques that I utilize to this day. The Morse code challenges were progressively more difficult in order to achieve greater operating privileges and I had to pass a 13 WPM and 20 WPM Code Test in order to earn the Extra Class License. In addition to the Morse Code exams, the written material and tests also became progressively more difficult. Success and passing these tests was all achieved with a strong desire to learn and the discipline to study in order to achieve the progressive levels of success. The known rewards for this effort were additional Amateur Band privileges and the personal benefits of gaining valuable knowledge.

This knowledge and desire to learn about how those Continuous Waves (CW) travel in space other electrical behavior encouraged me further in the field of engineering. With hard work and a desire to learn I went on to achieve a BSEE from NC State University in 1988. Amateur Radio and learning CW is where it all began.

Morse Code is an international language and CW is one of the most efficient and effective means of wireless communication available. The FCC should ensure the incentive to learn Morse Code remains a part of Amateur Radio in order to achieve the highest level of Amateur Radio license. If the FCC were to drop this requirement this important mode of communication and the ability to communicate using Morse Code may eventually be lost forever. I encourage the FCC and its rule makers to refrain from removing the CW requirement altogether and retain the requirement for the Amateur Extra license. If nothing else it may have the same effect on a young teenager today as it had on me in 1976 which was to pursue the field of engineering and try to gain a further appreciation and knowledge of why these radio waves travel the way they do.

I appreciate you to allow me to comment on this very important matter which could have a significant impact on Amateur Radio.

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